

Treadwell-Sparks House
48 Quincy Street (moved to 21 Kirkland St.)
Cambridge
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-869

HABS
MASS,
9-CAMB,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Middlesex	TOWN OR VICINITY Cambridge
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Treadwell-Sparks House		HABS NO. MA-869
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 48 Quincy Street (moved to 21 Kirkland Street)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1838 (per tax records)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known; Mr. Saunders, builder	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Finest example of a characteristic regional variation of the Greek Revival style, featuring very broad pilaster strips with an almost Regency clarity of mass. Home of Jared Sparks, president of Harvard College.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Flush wooden siding over wood frame		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 50' (three-bay front) x 50' with side ell, two stories		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Broad pilaster strips; cornice treated as complete entablature; doorway recessed with sidelights, frame treated as classical entablature with engaged columns; side entablature over first-floor windows.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Center hall with winding stairway; large double parlors on north; on south, a long ballroom with a screen of Ionic columns, dining room behind.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1903: fireproof library room attached to rear house moved from center of lot to 48 Quincy St. 1968: house moved to 21 Kirkland Street.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Middlesex Co. Deeds 362/171, 1837, land sold to Daniel Treadwell; 510/226, 1847, sold to Nathaniel Silsbee; 560/11, 1849, land given to Mary Silsbee Sparks; 1894, sold to New Church Theological School.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Roger Gilman, "Victorian Houses of Old Cambridge," <u>Cambridge Historical Society</u> 26:40.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, Historian, HABS, field work undertaken by Bainbridge Bunting		DATE August 1964